

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENTI 01040 121028Z
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 AS-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-02 /070 W
-----017996 121043Z /21

R 120850Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8316
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 1040

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4
TAGS: SHUM PINS VM
SUBJECT: REPORT OF KONTUM PRISON CONDITIONS

SUMMARY: A CAMBODIAN MAN WHO WAS DETAINED IN A KONTUM
PRISON IN VIETNAM FROM NOVEMBER 1975 TO FEBRUARY 1976
DESCRIBED PRISON CONDITIONS TO EMBOFF.

1. THE KONTUM PRISON WAS SWARMING WITH LICE, WATER
WAS SCARCE, AND SOAP WAS TOO EXPENSIVE FOR MOST
PRISONERS TO PURCHASE. EACH PRISONER WAS PROVIDED
ONLY ONE SMALL BOWL OF RICE TWICE DAILY AND A THIN
SOUP ONCE DAILY. PRISONERS ATE LITTLE MEAT AND A FEW
VEGETABLES THAT THEY COULD GROW THEMSELVES.
PRISONERS' FAMILIES WERE PERMITTED TO VISIT ONCE
WEEKLY AND COULD BRING SUPPLEMENTAL FOOD.

2. MOST OF THE PRISONERS WERE MONTAGANARD TRIBESMEN
IMPRISONED FOR THEIR ACTIVITIES WITH THE FRONT
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PAGE 02 VIENTI 01040 121028Z

UNIFIE DE LUTTE DES RACES OPPRIMEES" (FULRO). THEIR
FAMILY MEMBERS OFTEN SMUGGLED INFORMATION ABOUT FULRO
ACTIVITIES TO THEM STUFFED INTO BEANS AND POTATOES.

3. THE KONTUM PRISON CONSISTED OF SIX DORMITORIES,
EACH HOUSING ABOUT SIXTY PERSONS. PRISONERS WERE
SEPARATED ACCORDING TO THE GRAVITY OF THEIR ALLEGED

OFFENCES. IN ROOM NUMBER ONE, WHERE THE MOST SERIOUS OFFENDERS AND SOURCE WERE IMPRISONED, MANY PRISONERS WERE SHACKLED BY THE HANDS AND FEET. SOME WERE FORCED TO SLEEP WITH THEIR HANDS CHAINED BEHIND THEIR BACKS AND ATTACHED TO THEIR FEET EVERY NIGHT. THESE PRISONERS, SOME OF WHOM FOREMERLY WORKED FOR THE CIA OR WERE COMMON MURDERERS, OR WERE ACCUSED OF KILLING NORTH VIETNAMESE CADRE, WERE KEPT UNDER ARMED GUARD AT ALL TIMES. DURING THE DAY THEY WORKED ON CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS. PRISONERS ACCUSED OF COMMITTING LESSER CRIMES, INCLUDING FORMER ARVN OFFICERS AND MONTAGNARD LEADERS, WERE QUARTERED IN ROOMS THREE THROUGH SIX AT NIGHT AND WORKED IN RICE FIELDS ABOUT FIFTEEN OR TWENTY KILIMETERS FROM THE CITY OF KONTUM DURING THE DAY.

4. SOURCE SAID THAT HE KNEW OF NO EXECUTIONS OR EXCESSIVE BEATINGS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Concepts: PRISON CONDITIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 12-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Litigation History:
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